

EFN PRESS RELEASE
15 April 2021

112th General Assembly of the European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN)



The EFN National Nurses Associations (NNA), representing 3 million EU nurses, met online for the EFN General Assembly (GA), taking this opportunity to share key information on the **European Commission 2021 priorities**: 1. An Economy That Works for People; 2. Promoting our European Way of Life; and 3. A New Push for European Democracy.

The EFN GA emphasised the importance of following up the Action Plan of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#), to seize the opportunities for a healthy recovery post COVID-19. The [Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027](#) (MFF) and the [NextGenerationEU](#) (NGEU), also

known as “Recovery Fund or Recovery Plan” are important to build the resilience of the nursing workforce in the EU.

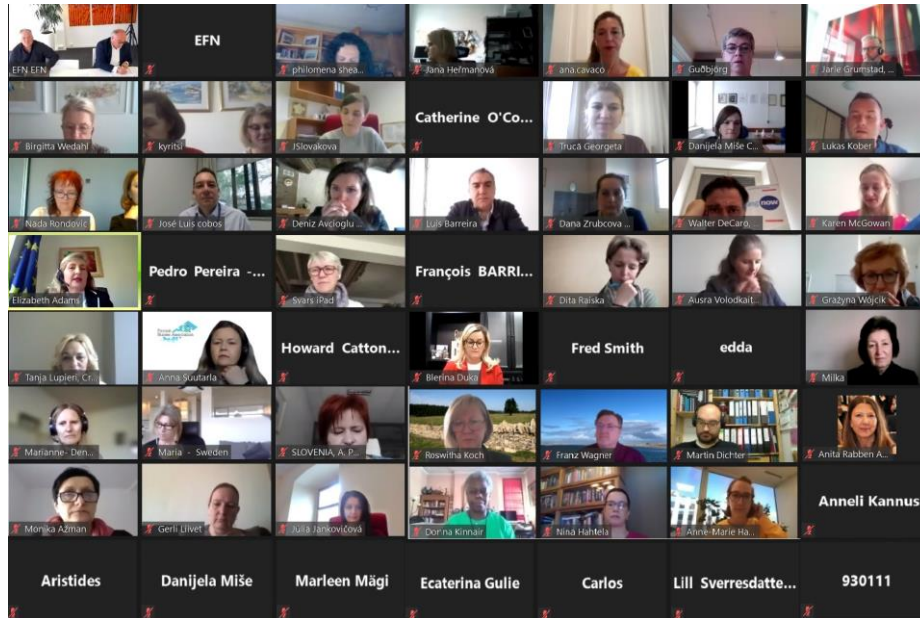
Within this context of recovery, it is important to implement the [EFN Workforce Matrix 3+1](#), which builds on the [EU Directive 2013/55/EU](#) and the [EFN Competency Framework](#) for General Care Nurses. The importance of qualified and competent nursing personnel is intrinsically linked to appropriate, safe and high-quality care for all patient and citizens in all health settings. During this pandemic the contribution of competent qualified nurses and midwives to recovery of patient was without doubt a major factor to recovery for many and compassionate palliative and end of life care for others.

The EFN will proactively work with the European institutions to ensure nurses are better resourced prepared, protected and supported for any future health crisis in the EU. As such, the EFN Members reaffirmed their dedicated commitment to ensuring that nurses’ united voice is heard at EU level and considered in the design of fit-for-purpose policies that affect the nursing profession. The [Pact for Skills](#), especially digital skills, is an important EU action to build resilience.

The involvement of EFN in 4 EU-funded projects as end-user partner is key to translate EFN Position Statements into frontline practice. The EFN is currently involved in [Qualment](#), coming to end in September 2021, in 2 EHR H2020 projects [InteropEHRate](#) and [Smart4Health](#), and IMMUNION - kicked off on 1st April 2021, this is a project on vaccination hesitance, which links to the work of the Vaccination Coalition for Healthcare Professionals, of which EFN is a co-chair, together with CPME and PGEU.



The COVID-19 pandemic still has an enormous impact across all layers of society. During such times of health crisis, it is vitally important to support frontline nurses, allow time for recovery from long covid and mental health consequences of working in this environment and physical fatigue from this respond to the challenges without compromising their safety and wellbeing, and to continue to encourage investment in the nursing workforce to combat the enormous shortages. Government must acknowledge and support recovery for nurses.



END

Notes to Editor: The EFN Members discussed and approved a key Policy Statement on Nurses' Mentorship, an EFN Policy Statement on Gender-Based Violence Against Nurses, and an EFN Policy Statement on Nurses Co-designing Artificial Intelligence Tools. These will support the EFN in its lobby work towards the EU Institutions in advancing the nursing profession. The EFN is eager to get political results within the EU Institutions and this meeting was extremely important from that perspective.

Please contact **Dr Paul De Raeve**, Secretary General of the European Federation of Nurses Associations for more details on this issue. Email: efn@efn.be or Tel: +32 (0)2 512 74 19

